

Newport Now

Volume I, Issue 10

A place to live, work, shop and play. It's all that and more!

Nov./Dec. 2002

City Administration:

Mayor:	Tom Guidugli
Vice Mayor:	Jerry Peluso
Commissioners:	Jan Knepshield
	Beth Fennell
	Ken Rechtin
City Manager:	Phil Ciafardini
Police Chief :	Tom Fromme
Fire Chief:	Larry Atwell
Chief Financial Officer:	Greg Engelman
Economic Dev. Director:	Pat Wingo
City Attorney:	Mike Schulken

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2002 Election Roundup

Newport voters re-elected all three incumbents in the November election; Jerry Peluso, Beth Fennell and Jan Knepshield. Newcomer Robbie Hall was elected into the seat being vacated by Ken Rechtin. Hall will retire as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Newport Police Department before taking office in January. Mayor Tom Guidugli was not up for re-election. In all, eight candidates were seeking the four commission seats.

Vice Mayor Jerry Peluso has served 15 years. Commissioner Beth Fennell has served 10 and Commissioner Jan Knepshield has served 17 years.

In other races, Kenneth Fields and Mary Crank were re-elected to the Newport School Board. In county races Bill Verst was re-elected County Commissioner. John Dunn was re-elected Sheriff, Greg Buckler was re-elected Jailer, Mark Schweitzer was re-elected as Coroner and Dan Braun was elected P.V.A.

Newport City Commission



Mayor Tom Guidugli

Vice Mayor
Jerry PelusoCommissioner
Beth FennellCommissioner
Jan KnepshieldCommissioner
Robbie Hall

**The
Commissioners
inauguration
will be held
January 6th.**

Ken Rechtin Moves on to County Seat

Ken Rechtin is going from City Commissioner to County Commissioner. Rechtin was elected to the 3rd District Seat now held by Roland Vories. He nabbed 58-percent of the vote beating out Terry Rasche. Rechtin defeated Vories in the May primary.

County Commissioner
Ken Rechtin

Rechtin was first elected to the Newport City Commission in 1994. He will be finishing out his 4th term.

Ken did a great job as City Commissioner and we look forward to working with him as a County Commissioner.

Streets/Sidewalks/Curbs Improvement Update

The City's Comprehensive Street Improvement Program is progressing. The City very much appreciates the resident's patience and understanding during the construction period. The following streets have had street, sidewalk and curb improvements completed: 11th Street (Monmouth to Brighton); Central Avenue (4th to 12th), 12th Street (Central to Wilder corporation line); York Street (4th to 11th); Linden Road; Harrison Avenue and East Broadway.

The following streets are expected to have street, sidewalk and curb improvements completed by early December: Bluegrass Avenue, Kentucky Drive (Bluegrass to Monmouth Street); Mayo Drive; 21st Street; Robinwood and 20th Street.

The following streets will have sidewalk and curbs

completed during the winter and asphalt paving in Spring, 2003: 11th Street (Washington to Monmouth); 15th Street; Parkview Avenue (15th to 17th); Home Street; 16th Street; Main Street; Ash Street; 5th Street (Monmouth to Park); 8th Street (Columbia to Isabella); Linden Avenue (6th to 9th); 7th Street; Brighton Street (11th to 12th).

Biehl Street will have a new water line installed by early January, then the completion of street reconstruction and resurfacing will occur by Spring, 2003. The 700 block of Ann Street will be reconstructed in conjunction with new housing development.

Further information will be forthcoming concerning the City's Street Improvement Program.

Residents Receive NKWD Bills

Most residents have received a water bill from the Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD). A lot of you may have received a bill that was higher than normal. If you received such a bill, there are a couple of reasons for the increased amount. First, there was an extremely hot summer that caused substantially increased water usage during that period. Additionally, due to the transition of the sale of the Newport System, your billing period may have been more than 90 days. If so, your usage and pro-rating of your minimum bill for the days over 90 would have increased your bill.

The water rates you are paying are the same as the rates you paying were with the Newport System. **THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE TO YOUR WATER RATES.**

Call the NKWD at 578-9898 with any question concerning your water bill.

Real Estate Taxes Down for 17th Straight Year

For the 17th straight year, the City of Newport has lowered its real estate tax rate. The Mayor and Board of Commissioners voted to lower the real estate rate by 1.5-percent from last year. Since 1986, the city's real estate tax rate has decreased by 60-percent, going from \$6.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$2.58. The city's strategy to lower property taxes, was to stimu-



late housing rehabilitation and economic development. The reduction of property taxes coupled with the reduction of business taxes has helped fuel the city's economic development and business expansion. This new development and related commercial activity brings in more revenue to the city which enhances services. Major improvements are also able to be made while keeping resident costs down.

City Launches Three New Programs: Street Cleaning Program

The city is in the process of implementing a new Street Cleaning Program. We are happy to advise you that we will be installing permanent "Street Cleaning Signs" on your street. The signs will be placed on standards and utility poles, in conspicuous locations to adequately advertise the days and the times that parking will be prohibited.

We hope to have all the standards installed, and the signs will be put into place this year. However, this program will not begin until April 2003.

This new program will eliminate the need for an employee installing temporary signs, allowing us to concentrate on more important tasks. It will also eliminate confusion for the residents, as each street will be assigned permanent street cleaning days.

We are constantly striving to improve our services, and this is just another example. After the program is implemented next year, a reminder will be sent out. Due to the problems that unmoved vehicles create, there will be strict enforcement of the parking prohibition after a 30-day grace period.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call our staff at 292-3637 or 292-3638.

Leaf Pick-up Program

The city is pleased to announce the implementation of another new program.

We are happy to advise you that we have purchased an industrial grade "Leaf Vac" to assist us in keeping our city clean. This machine is a large leaf vacuum that will also mulch the leaves and shoot them to a large receiving bin attached to a dump truck. This program will involve cooperation from you, in so far as; we will be posting designated areas for leaf removal. The posting will be several days in advance, and will require you to remove your vehicle's to allow

easy access for the equipment.

Once an area is posted, you are permitted to rake or sweep your leaves to the gutter for our removal, however, we ask that you to be considerate of your neighbors. We plan to incorporate this program, in the near future, with the "Tree Trimming Program" whenever possible.

This is another example of your tax dollars at work in making our City a better place to live and work. If you have any questions call 292-3637 or 292-3638.

Tree Trimming Program

Public Works has been trimming trees in the east side neighborhoods and will proceed throughout the city. During these times, some parking restrictions may apply. If so, adequate signage will be posted.

There has been concern voiced over the appearance of the trees after trimming. We have had the County Extension Agent look at these trees, and there is no cause for alarm.

The following are answers to the most frequently asked questions:

Why are the trees being trimmed? The trees are being trimmed to allow for passage of street cleaning and large equipment, as well as to allow for appropriate pedestrian safety.

How will the trees look after trimming? They may look frightful at first, however this is normal and they will grow in during the spring.

Will it cause the tree to die? This is very unlikely.

If you have any questions, please call 291-6309.

Brighton the Way to Newport Holiday Events

Saturday, December 7th

5:30 p.m. - Lighting of City Tree - Celebrate the Holiday Season by singing Christmas Carols and participate in the countdown to officially light Newport's Christmas Tree. Santa will make a special appearance.

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Brighton the Way to Newport - See the city twinkle with thousands of luminaries. Tribute luminaria can be purchased for \$5. A kit of luminaries can be purchased for \$10. Call 491-8303 for more information.

6:00 p.m. - Holiday Stroll - Following the lighting of the City Tree, join in a Holiday Stroll down Newport's historic Monmouth St. aglow with luminaries.

You can sing carols and get acquainted with businesses and shop owners along Monmouth St. And you just might win a prize. See next page for details.

6:30 p.m. - Lighting of Levee Tree - The Holiday Stroll will make its way down Monmouth Street to Newport on the Levee. Join Santa and others to officially light Newport on the Levee's Tree. Then head to the World Peace Bell at 4th and York for the Grand Finale.

All activities are sponsored by the Brighton Center, Newport Business Association, The City of Newport and Newport on the Levee.

2002 Victorian Christmas Tour

The 12th Annual Victorian Christmas Tour takes place December 7th and 8th. The tour, presented by the East Row Historic Foundation, runs from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. each day in the East Row. The East Row Historic District is the second largest local historic district in Kentucky.

The tour will feature seven historic homes decorated for the holidays. The homes reflect the Victorian style architecture, specifically Queen Anne and Italianate.



Interior of home from 2001 Tour

The 2002 Tour will also offer visitors holiday-themed table settings, art shows and live holiday music. Some homeowners and greeters will be dressed in period costume and horse-drawn carriage rides will be available.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in the Fellowship Hall of St. John's. A shuttle bus will make periodic stops along the tour route. For more information call (513) 588-4600 or log onto www.eastrow.org.

Monmouth Street Update

The Streetscape Project along Monmouth Street is moving forward. A majority of the utility poles have been removed. New traffic signals are being installed and new trees have been planted. Crews are still working on the west side of the 400 block and the east and west side of the 300 block. Work includes underground utilities, new sidewalks, curbs and trees.

Christmas lights will also be hung in the trees along Monmouth Street after the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Crews remove utility poles in the 800 block of Monmouth Street

Brighton the Way to Newport...

Persons wanting to be eligible for the “Shop Newport Prize Package” giveaway should have their entry form stamped by at least Ten (10) of the Monmouth Street/Newport businesses listed below on December 7 from 5:30 – 7:55 p.m. All completed forms must be turned in by 7:55 p.m. at the Peace Bell.

Combined Lock

Located for the evening at the Peace Bell – 4th and York Streets

Stegman’s Kitchen Showcase

517 Monmouth

Dragonfly Stained Glass Innovations

523 Monmouth

Kamp’s Flooring & Decorating

621 Monmouth

Dixie Chili

733 Monmouth

Millennium Monument Co.

421 Monmouth

Detroit Joe’s Restaurant

115 E. 9th St.

Gourmet Chili

843 Monmouth

Richard’s Store

720 Monmouth

Captain’s Cove Bar and Grill

500 Monmouth

Costume Gallery

638 Monmouth

Peluso’s Market

623 Monmouth

Dickey’s Glass

525 Monmouth

Ann’s Ice Ball Parlor

Operating at

9th and Monmouth

The Kentucky Haus Craft Gallery

342 Monmouth

Ebert’s Meat Market

939 Monmouth

Pepper Pod Restaurant

703 Monmouth

Melody Manor Dog Grooming

935 Monmouth

Sis’s Family Restaurant

837 Monmouth

Working Environments, Inc.

915 Monmouth

Saul’s Value Store

817 Monmouth

La Mexicana Grocery & Taqueria

642 Monmouth

Marty Lou’s Beauty Salon

641 Monmouth

Barb’z Lounge

941 Monmouth

Fantasy in Frosting

836 Monmouth

The Thing Shop

811 Monmouth

St. Vincent de Paul’s

9th and Monmouth

2002 Brighton the Way to Newport Prize Package Entry Form

CiTIRAMA Big Success!

Nearly 10,000 people turned out for CiTiRAMA which featured Newport's Wiedemann Hill Development. The home show featured 8 new homes with varied architectural style. The Wiedemann Hill development demonstrates the latest trend in subdivision design; larger homes on small sites. All eight homes featured during CiTiRAMA sold for between \$650,000 and 1.2 million dollars. The Wiedemann Hill development is located on the east side of Newport near I-471.



HBA Thanks its CiTiRAMA Sponsors:

*City of Newport
Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky
Title First Agency
Lexus Rivercenter
Don Pablo's
Kentucky Post
Kentucky Enquirer*

Cote Brillante Redevelopment Moving Forward

It has been a little over a year since the Cote Brillante Redevelopment Area project was initiated. Initial efforts of the developer, Neyer Properties, were dedicated to moving forward the Wiedemann Hill residential portion of the development so that the CiTiRAMA home show could be held in October. However, due to a number of reasons, the area identified as the Promenade site, has not experienced the same rapid development pace.

To alleviate the uncertainty for property owners in the affected area, the City took a bold step and decided to move forward with the property acquisition independently. The city has moved quickly and closings began in mid-November. It is expected that all property will be acquired by Spring of 2003. The City is committed to this project and will continue to expend every effort to move it toward completion.

Newport's Newest Volunteer Programs...

Ambassador Program:

The City of Newport has launched a new volunteer program to provide support at special events. Ambassadors do everything from working the information booth at Italianfest to greeting guests at various functions. So, if you see an Ambassador sporting a yellow shirt and hat, be sure to give them a smile and wave because you will definitely get one in return! To become an Ambassador call 292-3625.

Citizens Police Academy:

This 10 week program is designed to provide participants with a working knowledge of the Newport Police Department and an in-depth view into the various areas of law enforcement. The program runs January 7-March 11, 2003. For more information call Lt. Howard Niemeier at 292-3611. Applications can be picked up at the police department. The deadline is Dec. 16, 2002. Notification of acceptance will be made by Dec. 27, 2002.

NKY Fire Fighter's Assoc. Needs Your Financial Help

Dear Friend,

For over 100 years the firefighters throughout Northern Kentucky have dedicated themselves to the safety of their communities. Some firefighters have given the ultimate sacrifice, their lives. To honor our departed heroes and those who daily put their lives on the line, the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association is initiating the construction of a Northern Kentucky Firefighters Monument. This is the first time anything of this magnitude has been undertaken in our area.

Your financial assistance is greatly needed in helping the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association establish this place of recognition to all firefighters. Donations are now being accepted to underwrite the cost of this memorial.

The monument/memorial will be located on the site of

the World Peace Bell. At this time the *Northern Kentucky Firefighter Monument* is in the design stage. We hope that you will make your donation or commitment to this project so that we can unveil our monument at the memorial service on September 11, 2003.

Your donation may be sent to the NKFA Monument Fund Committee, c/o Chief Larry B. Atwell, 998 Monmouth Street, Newport, KY 41071. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to call Chief Atwell at (859) 292-3615.

Sincerely,

NKFA Monument Fund Committee

Chief Larry Atwell
Chief David Biddle
Chief Rick Messinschlager



Newport Students Take Flight with Comair

Several students from Newport Schools Mentoring Program were treated to a special airplane ride compliments of Comair. The kids took a ride on one of Comair's newest regional jets. The sleek new CRJ700 seats 70 people and will provide passenger service between Cincinnati, Albany, NY, Bangor, Maine, Buffalo, NY, Detroit and Omaha, Nebraska. This was the first ever plane ride for many of the children.

In August, the students enjoyed a Big Brother/Big Sister Back to School Pizza Party compliments of The City of Newport.



Above: Students from the Mentoring Program hold up posters commemorating their Comair flight

What's New at the Levee?

Just Opened:

Bamboo Club - Great food that features an array of Pacific Rim cuisine with an edgy Asian Atmosphere.

Jeff Ruby's Tropicana - The first of Ruby's non-steak house concepts. Features eclectic mix of New York



and eccentric South Beach type foods.

Ladybug Fashions - An exciting mix of fun and funky fashions! Specializes in smaller sizes.

Coming Soon:

Bar Louie, Improv Comedy Club
Café Istanbul

Mark Your Calendar!

December 2nd....City Commission Meeting - Held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the City Building located at 998 Monmouth St. 7:00 p.m.

December 2 - 16....Letters to Santa - Santa will have a special mailbox in the lobby of the City Building. Children who write a letter to Santa will receive a response from the North Pole. For more info. call 292-3686.

December 7th....Holiday Events - Help usher in the Holidays in Newport. City Tree Lighting, Brighton the Way to Newport, Holiday Stroll, Levee Tree Lighting. Activities start at 10th and Monmouth.

December 7th & 8th....Victorian Christmas Tour - Seven historic Victorian homes decorated for holidays open their doors to the public. Tickets are \$15. For more information call (513) 588-4600.

December 9th....City Commission Meeting - Held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the City Building located at 998 Monmouth St. 7:00 p.m.

December 9th....Kids Christmas Celebration - The first 500 children ages 2 - 9 will receive a free Christmas gift. Santa will be there too! Doors open at 6:00 p.m. A.D. Owens Gymnasium.

December 9th....City Commission Meeting - Held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the City Building located at 998 Monmouth St. 7:00 p.m.

December 13 - 17....Light A Home Contest - Decorate your home or business with holiday lights and decorations. Winners and runners-up will be selected from each of nine neighborhoods and the Business District. Must register by Dec. 10th. Call 292-3686.

December 16th....City Commission Meeting - Held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the City Building located at 998 Monmouth St. 7:00 p.m.

December 19th....Lights and Sights for Seniors - Seniors can tour the city to see the best decorated homes in the comfort of a warm bus. Tour runs 7:30 - 9:30. Call 292-3686 to register.

December 25th & 26th.... City Offices Closed - City offices will be closed for the Christmas Holidays.

January 1st & 2nd....City Offices Closed - City offices closed for the New Years Holiday.

998 Monmouth Street
Newport, KY 41071
(859) 292-3666
www.cityofnewportky.org

